

Adventurer

Pentecost

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 44, No. 31

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Week of September 13, 2020



News & Events

Rally Day Is this Sunday: What Is It?

Typically the first Sunday after Labor Day, Rally Day is a time we set aside to mark the beginning of a new program year. But like most things in 2020, it is taking on a unique flavor this year.

What has changed? While we are beginning to meet together in-person and in smaller groups, we are not able to gather in the ways we have in the past. Many of us will miss the energy and excitement that often comes with Rally Day, and we will not have our Rally Day Picnic that afternoon.

But what hasn't changed? In gratitude for the Lord's goodness to us as a church family, we still celebrate our many ministries which reach back through all levels and parts of our church, while also reaching out through Birmingham and into the world. We are a lively congregation that spans all ages and reaches across much of the city.

While some things may be different this fall, we are continuing to find and try new ways of connecting. Our (in)famous Rally Day Skit will be a part of our streamed service this Sunday. Across all ages and ministries, we will continue to find new ways

(continues on inside back cover)



A Word from the Dean

At some point last year, I thought it would be good for the Advent to read *The Pilgrim's Progress* together. It would, I thought, be a bonding experience for our church and allow us to read one of the greatest books of all time. Then Covid came.

As I was persuading myself to abandon the project, others helped me to realize it was precisely the right time to read *The Pilgrim's Progress* together. *The Pilgrim's Progress* is one of the bestselling books in history. We are not, however, reading it because it is popular. We are reading it because it accurately captures the experience of the Christian.

An allegory of the Christian life, Bunyan wrote *Pilgrim's Progress* from a prison cell. Bunyan, imprisoned because he refused to stop preaching after the restoration of the monarch, incorporated much of his own testimony in the story.

Bishop J. C. Ryle wrote, "I doubt not that the one volume of *Pilgrim's Progress*, writ-

ten by a man who knew hardly any book but his Bible ... will prove in the last day to have done more for the benefit of the world, than all the works of the schoolmen put together." It is my hope that Bp. Ryle's observation will also be a prayer, that by reading *Pilgrim's Progress*, it will be to the benefit of your soul.

Our own adventure will begin the week of Rally Day, September 13. I am encouraging all small groups to make this their study for the fall semester. If you are not in a small group, please visit AdventBirmingham.org/SmallGroups for more information. If you are not able to be in a small group, you can read it along with us individually. We are even commending a children's edition for families with young ones.

Space constraints won't allow me to pass on important details so please visit AdventBirmingham.org/Pilgrim to access teaching videos, schedules, and other resources.

I am very excited about sharing in this journey with you along the pilgrim's way.

- Andrew

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. - Hebrews 12:1-2a

This Sunday:

September 13, 2020

We will hold outdoor services in the porte cochere parking lot at 8:30 a.m. (band-led music) and 9:45 a.m. (choir and organ-led music). Registering is necessary; sign up at AdventBirmingham.org/Worship. Mark Gignilliat will preach.

We continue to offer worship via streaming video at 9:00 a.m. This Sunday's service will feature the annual Rally Day Skit. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, Facebook Live, or YouTube to access our stream.

Adult Education: 10:00 - 10:50 a.m.

The Dean's Class will be available via streaming video this Sunday. Dean Pearson will lead an introduction to our parish-wide fall reading, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live.

Recordings of past classes are available on our website at AdventBirmingham.org/Audio.

Lectionary:

Psalm 114 or Psalm 103:(1-7) 8-13; Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 or Exodus 14:19-31; Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Children's & Youth Education:

Sunday School for rising 3K through 3rd graders will be held at the church during the 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. services for those who have signed up. Children's Sunday School video lessons continue to be available online each week at AdventBirmingham.org under the "Worship" tab. Senior High youth will meet for class in Cameron's backyard (3821 Buckingham Lane, 35243) from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Junior High will meet at the Flowers' home (230 Richmar Drive, 35213) from 10:30-11:15 a.m. A Zoom link will be provided to Junior High students who want one. Contact Tucker Fleming (Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com) for the Zoom link.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

Join a Small Group

God created us to connect deeply with one another, growing together in the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

While relationships with others in our Advent family start before and after our worship gatherings, they don't deepen without additional points of engagement. Our Small Groups Ministry facilitates the kinds of friendships that pull us all closer to Christ as we draw closer to one another. Each group consists of 10-12 people (on average) that meet together at a set time and place every week to study the Bible, pray, and enjoy our friendships.

We'd love to help you find a group that works for you. Contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562) if you're interested in joining one.



Bible Studies

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, ... discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). We have lots of Bible studies at the Advent, rooted in our conviction that "Holy Scripture contains all things necessary for salvation." The groups are led by engaging and faithful leaders who wish to share the same gospel that has meant life and salvation for each of them. If you are interested in joining one of these studies or want more information, please contact Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562). Here is a current list of regularly scheduled weekday studies:

Mondays, 7:00-8:00 a.m. at Cranmer House

Bible Study on "Genesis 1-12: The Revelation of God to the World He Created"

Open to all, but limited to 26 people, led by Dr. Allen Ross, Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School, beginning September 14

Mondays, 9:15-10:30 a.m. at Cranmer House or via Zoom

An eight-week Women's Study on "Sanctuaries, the Places of Life-Giving Water"

With Virginia Hornsby, beginning September 14

Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m. at Cranmer House

Men's Bible Study

With Craig Ogard and Pierce Yates

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Kelly Hargrove's home

Women's Bible Study based on the book, "God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible" by Vaughan Roberts

Led by Kelly Hargrove, beginning September 15

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Tanya Cooper's home

Women's Bible Study

Led by Tanya Cooper and Lisa O'Neal, start date to be determined

Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Cranmer House or via Zoom

An eight-week Women's Study on the Gospel of Matthew

Led by Carolyn Lankford and Melinda King, beginning September 16.

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. at Sally Goings' home

A 20s and 30s Women's Bible Study

Led by Sally Goings and Gretchen Williams

Thursdays, 6:45-7:45 a.m. at Cranmer House or via Zoom

Women's Early Morning Bible Study, a year-round study based on recorded sermons and talks by Tim Keller

Led by Fran Cade and Rita Wright

Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Chapter Room or via Zoom

An eight-week Women's Study on the Gospel of Matthew

Led by Carolyn Lankford and Melinda King, beginning September 17

Fridays, 7:00-8:00 a.m. at Cranmer House

Men's Study: A "Workshop" on Revelation

Led by Bill Wortman

Cranmer House is located at 2814 Linden Avenue, Homewood, Alabama, 35209.

Care Services

Living in this world and in relationships sometimes involves times of painful transition or particular challenge. As we all experience difficulty at some point in our lives, we're grateful for the blessing our Pastoral Care team is to our community.

Advent House: Prayer Ministry

The Advent House Prayer Ministry welcomes men, women, couples, members of the Advent and beyond, who desire to come and request prayer for God's intervention, guidance, and healing of the sickness, sorrows, and concerns in their lives. The prayers of the intercessors, who will be praying on your behalf, will be grounded in the Holy Scriptures, dependent on our Savior Jesus Christ, and guided by the Holy Spirit. For more information or to schedule a prayer appointment at Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205), contact Kathy Logue (205-410-4622, Kathy@CathedralAdvent.com).

Counseling

Every lifetime brings seasons of difficulty and discouragement. Fortunately, God graces us with others who can help us move through these seasons. In addition to the pastoral counseling offered by our clergy, the Advent offers counseling by a licensed counselor for individuals, couples, and families. If you are experiencing difficulty dealing with past hurts, stress, depression, anxiety, grief, or relationships, you do not have to look for hope and healing alone. It is our privilege to help. Contact Stella Schreiber (205-443-8558, Stella@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Weddings, Baptisms, and Funerals

Life's transition moments bring extra opportunities to connect with one another and to deepen our faith. Weddings, baptisms, and funerals continue, though the continually evolving constraints of this time affect the number of people who can be involved. In addition to services in the Nave, some of these services are being held in the garden to allow greater distancing and safety. To coordinate one of these services, please contact Robin Turner and Craig Smalley through the Pastoral Care office (Robin@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3500).



Volunteer Groups

Our worship gatherings bring our family of faith together on Sundays, Tuesday mornings, and throughout the year for special services, so that all who enter our spaces may receive the grace of the gospel. While our clergy and staff play important roles in coordinating these activities, our lay volunteers are the true hands and feet of our public worship ministry, essential in conveying the warmth and welcome of the good news of Jesus.

Lay volunteers serve in many capacities:

- On the front lines through welcoming and greeting (Welcome Team) and passing out orders of worship (Ushers)
- Behind the scenes through preparing our services of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion (Altar Guild)
- During services through serving at the table (Chalice Bearers), assisting clergy (Acolytes), leading prayers (Intercessors), reading Scripture (Lectors), running audio (Sound Volunteers), and operating our video livestream (Production Volunteers).

If these sentences resonate with you as you read them, we'd love to connect to learn more about your heart for ministry and help you find a place to serve in line with your gifts and skills. Contact Annie Lee (Annie@CathedralAdvent.com) to learn more and discern next steps.



Children, Youth and Family Ministries at the Advent

Children

The Advent Children's Ministry seeks to provide a safe and welcoming environment where all children experience the love of Christ and grow in his word and gospel. This year, we will focus on the basics and find creative, safe ways to ensure that our children continue to grow in their relationship with Christ. We will teach through the story of the Bible, work on learning the New City Catechism, and have loving, lively fellowship among our children. Contact Tara Davis (Tara@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Youth

The Advent Youth Ministry seeks to form faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and members of his church during and after adolescence. This year we will focus on helping students find life in Christ in their individual relationships with Jesus. We also will seek and pray for vibrant, Christian community among our students. The youth ministry will try to maintain much of its historic programming while meeting in outdoor and open-air environments to ensure safety. For more information, contact Tucker Fleming (Tucker@CathedralAdvent.com) or Rebecca Lankford (Lankford@CathedralAdvent.com).

Family

More than ever, the Advent family ministry will equip and encourage parents to invest spiritually in their children. We will give parents direction on how to help their children grow in biblical and theological knowledge. We will also focus on pastoral teaching to help parents find hope and strength during these challenging times. Contact Cameron Cole (Cameron@CathedralAdvent.com) with questions.



Women's Ministries

Women of the Advent gather regularly to hear and proclaim the freeing power of Jesus Christ and make disciples wherever God places each and every one of his daughters. We also meet in small group settings and one-on-one mentoring partnerships. See "Bible Studies" on page 2 for specific opportunities or contact Carolyn Lankford (Carolyn@CathedralAdvent.com).



Key Dates:

- Coffee and dessert with the Rev. Lisa Newman Wheeler, Deacon, Church of the Apostles, Columbia, South Carolina
Tuesday, October 13
Cranmer House • 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Speaker Event with the Rev. Lisa Newman Wheeler
Wednesday, October 14
Nave • 10:00 a.m.
- Women's Coffee with the Rev. Mary Splawn, Director of Women's Programs, Mountain Brook Baptist Church
Wednesday, November 18
Cranmer House • 7:00-8:00 a.m.
- Women's Coffee with the Rev. Mary Splawn
Wednesday, November 18
Location to be determined • 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- Christ in the Christmas Crunch with Carolyn Lankford
Wednesday, December 2
Botanical Gardens • 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Retreat with Susan Yates
Friday-Sunday, August 27-29, 2021
Children's Harbor at Lake Martin

Advent Mission and Outreach

Mission and Outreach at the Advent seeks to serve the Lord Jesus Christ by engaging in his spiritual and material restoration of our city and world. Our goal is to foster and develop a culture where Adventers, through the work of the Holy Spirit, take part in evangelism, doing justice, and loving mercy. We also strive to create and deepen engagement with the Advent's ministry partners.

The Advent supports ministries that work in Christian leadership development, ministry to unreached people and the persecuted church, and ministry to the poor. Our five main ministry partners are Bridge Ministries, Brother Bryan Mission, Restoration Academy, Global Teams, and the Shyira Diocese in Rwanda. Our hope is that by focusing on fewer partners, we will actually be able to develop healthy partnerships with these ministries, shaped by mutual prayer, mutual encouragement, and mutual learning.

The way Mission and Outreach operates will need to be flexible during this season, but we will continue to minister to the downtown community and support our partner ministries. Our annual coat drive and food drive may look more like a drive-through drop off, and instead of trips overseas we may invite our global partners to share their work through Zoom.

As we continue to pivot to meet our neighbors' needs, please don't hesitate to reach out to Bethany Rushing (Bethany@CathedralAdvent.com) to brainstorm creative ways we as a body can be the hands and feet of Christ.



Lenten Preaching and Lunches

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, Adventers will gather for the 114th successive year of Lenten Preaching and Lunches, an annual event that draws Adventers and visitors from around the Birmingham area together for gospel-centered preaching and table fellowship. Guest preachers deliver sermons Monday through Friday during the noon hour running through Maundy Thursday (April 1, 2021), and more than 250 volunteers take turns preparing the hot meals served immediately following each sermon. This is a very special time of the year at the Advent, and we hope you make plans to join us in 2021! For more information, contact Carolyn Lankford (Carolyn@CathedralAdvent.com).



Thriving and Diverse Music Ministries at the Advent

The Advent is blessed with many expressions of musical diversity, all of which point our hearts and minds toward Jesus Christ. We encourage you to read through the opportunities listed below and perhaps plan to visit a new style of event this year. We encourage you to visit our website AdventBirmingham.org/Music on a regular basis and watch the *Adventurer* for complete event details and additional information.

The Cathedral Choir and Concert Series

With the ever-changing circumstances surrounding Covid-19, we are planning on a completely virtual Concert Series and Midday Music presentation for the fall. Performances will feature our very own music ministers as well as local musicians. Please visit our website AdventBirmingham.org/Music for performance details and the most current information. Members of the Cathedral Choir will continue to sing for our recorded and in-person services as numbers allow, and will attempt to have recorded services of Evensong as we are able. Services of Evensong will be announced on our website and in the *Adventurer*.



Advent Birmingham Music

The musicians who lead our 11:00 Refectory and Five O’Clock services are always releasing new recordings and song videos. A great way to stay connected to all the new music is to visit our artist website (AdventBirminghamMusic.com) and to follow us on social media ([@AdventBhamMusic](https://www.instagram.com/AdventBhamMusic) on all platforms).

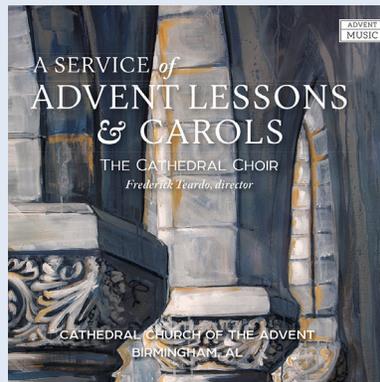


Spotify

The Advent’s Spotify channel includes playlists of music similar to that of our Cathedral Choir, as well as playlists representative of the sound of Advent Birmingham. We’re adding new music on a regular basis, and we make it a particular point to update our lists during transitional seasons on the church calendar. Click the Spotify icon on the homepage of AdventBirmingham.org to access our channel or search “Advent Birmingham” from your Spotify app.

Albums

Our music ministries frequently release new music, online and on CD. Below are some of the most recent releases.



(Rally Day Is this Sunday, cont.)

to encourage and be encouraged by one another, giving and sharing the invaluable riches of the gospel.

Continue reading this issue of the *Adventurer* to learn more about how things continue at the Advent, even amidst the coronavirus. While we have been physically apart from one another these months, we might recall Paul's words at the beginning of his letter to the Philippians, giving thanks as we remember one another because of our partnership in the gospel. Happy Rally Day!

The Pilgrim's Progress: A Parish-Wide Reading

What is it about *The Pilgrim's Progress* that has made it one of the bestselling books in history? Let's find out! Join us in reading this book this fall. Dean Pearson will kick off our reading with an introduction to the book in the Dean's Class this Sunday, September 13. You can order one of the two editions we recommend from the Advent Bookstore, which is open on Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. If you can't get to the store, you may purchase the book by contacting the store (205-323-2959, Bookstore@CathedralAdvent.com). Your pre-purchased book will be available for pick-up on Sunday morning. For more information contact Fontaine Pope (205-443-8562, Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com).

Evensong at the Advent

Drawn almost entirely from Scripture, Choral Evensong services are sung versions of the Anglican Evening Prayer service. Led by Advent clergy and the Cathedral Choir, Evensong services offer beautiful music, gospel messages, and chances to rest after busy workdays. Please visit our website periodically and watch the *Adventurer* for an updated Evensong schedule.



Inquirers' Class

Interested in Membership?

The Inquirers' Class is an adult education course that will give you an idea of what the Advent believes and why we believe it. It is open to anyone, but is designed particularly for newcomers to the Advent. Our next class will be on Saturday, September 19, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at our off-site location, Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). Lunch is provided. Make your reservations by contacting Fontaine Pope (Fontaine@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-443-8562).



Advent Episcopal School



We are grateful for the Lord's grace evident in the students and families of our Advent Episcopal School. The faculty and staff (many of whom are also members of the church) provide a safe, caring, and nurturing learning environment for each student. As its Chaplain, Canon Craig Smalley coordinates weekly chapel services and serves the school as its pastor. And as most realize, our Sunday morning children's ministry takes place primarily in the spaces that we share with the school. Students at Advent learn in a Christian community as they work through an accelerated educational program spanning pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade.

To find out more, including information on having a tour of the campus, visit AdventEpiscopalSchool.org. or call 205-252-2535.



diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, Bishop of Alabama
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, Bishop Coadjutor of Alabama

advent staff

The Very Rev. Andrew C. Pearson, Jr., Dean and Rector
The Rev. Canon R. Craig Smalley, Canon Pastor and Day School Chaplain

The Rev. Canon Matthew C. Schneider, Canon for Parish
Life and Evangelism

The Rev. Canon Zac Hicks, Canon for Liturgy and Worship

The Rev. Katherine P. Jacob, Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Michael Weeks, Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Wes Sharp, Clergy Associate

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Joan Thomas: (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Mrs. George B. Elliott • (Endowment Fund) by Sue Alford; Vivian and Carlisle Jones

Barbara Oliver: (Endowment Fund) by Jack Byrne; Reb Baker • (Pastoral Care) by Allen and Kathryn Corey

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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sept 13 Rally Day Outdoor Worship - Porte Cochere Lot - 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Streaming Worship - AdventBirmingham. org/Live - 9:00 a.m.	14	15 Praise Service - Rector's Garden - 7:30 a.m.	16 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	17	18	19 Inquirers' Class - Cranmer House - 9:00 a.m.
Sept 20 Outdoor Worship - Porte Cochere Lot - 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Streaming Worship - 9:00 a.m. Sr. High Family Dinner - Cranmer House - 6:57 p.m.	21	22 Praise Service - Rector's Garden - 7:30 a.m.	23 Bookstore Open - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	24	25	26

On the Horizon for the Children's Ministry

2020 has been an unprecedented year with much unpredictability, but the Children's Ministry is excited for the consistency we have planned for the 2020-2021 school year. Following Rally Day, all children in our ministry will learn the story of the Bible, from beginning to end. In addition, all 3K-6th grade children will learn the New City Catechism songs that teach 52 theological truths to promote a strong foundation for their faith. Each Sunday, there will be 3K-3rd grade children's Sunday school at 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. at church for those that have signed up with the links sent by Tara, and the weekly video lesson for all ages will continue to be offered online. Contact Tara Davis (Tara@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.